

It appears that the U.S. does have a way out, by withdrawing any commitments to free trade in gambling. The U.S. Trade Representative is currently in the middle of negotiating this withdrawal. But this requires compensation too, for taking away market access from our trading partners. How much compensation? Not much at all, given that almost all Internet gambling is illegal. But if we make it legal, even if sports gambling is excluded, then there is a big legal market for which we will owe compensation.

As Ambassador Eizenstat says, "withdrawal negotiations should be brought to a conclusion before Congress passes any new gambling legislation." In the interest of protecting American athletics, I plan to take this advice to heart.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to enter Ambassador Eizenstat's letter into the record.

#### FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM AND MODERNIZATION ACT (HR 3121)

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 26, 2007*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3121, the Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act. This reauthorization and update of the National Flood Insurance Program is needed to ensure all home and business owners in flood zones have the ability to plan for the worst and purchase an appropriate level of coverage.

In 2005, we witnessed the extreme case of storm damage. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita showed that insurance companies try to blame wind damage on water. Too many lawsuits have been filed to try to resolve the dispute. This bill creates an option: homeowners can purchase a multiperil policy that will pay them for hurricane damage, whether caused by the wind or storm surge.

H.R. 3121 also includes language to further encourage to my constituents on Long Island to purchase flood insurance. A recent study has shown the southern shore of Long Island would be flooded if a Category 1 storm were to strike the area. That flood zone pushes further north on with each intensifying category. The affected areas on Long Island are home to middle-class and businesses. Under H.R. 3121, the maximum coverage for a home increases from \$250,000 to \$335,000; for residential contents from \$100,000 to \$135,000; and for non-residential properties from \$500,000 to \$670,000. These provisions will ensure that flood insurance participants on Long Island will be able to pick up the pieces and start over following a hurricane.

The bill includes another little discussed provision that I strongly support. Most people don't realize that today their finished basement family or media room and its contents are not protected by flood insurance because that room is located below ground level. As more families add on to their homes rather than move to larger homes, basements are becoming another room, often more important than the traditional living room. H.R. 3121 allows optional coverage for improvements and personal property located in basements.

Too many people who should be purchasing flood insurance have no protection. Some people they live too far from the coast. Others don't realize that their homes are in a flood plain and learn this fact, to their dismay, only after a flash flood destroys their residences. I am pleased that H.R. 3121 funds a program to help communities reach out to residents and encourage them to purchase flood insurance. I commend the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI) who introduced this legislation in the 109th Congress.

It is only a matter of time before a severe hurricane like the Long Island Express of 1938 impacts Long Island. This bill improves current insurance and should encourage more home owners to purchase and retain flood insurance. I encourage the House to pass H.R. 3121 and hope that the Senate also will act quickly to send this important legislation to the President for his signature.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 26, 2007*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. This is a very important designation because it helps to raise awareness about ovarian cancer and its symptoms.

In the State of Connecticut alone, over 300 women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer each year. It is predicted that 190 women in Connecticut will die from ovarian cancer in 2007. Ovarian cancer is the eighth most common female cancer in Connecticut and the fourth most common cause of female cancer death in the State.

Although in the United States approximately 20,000 women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer each year and an estimated 15,000 women die of the disease, there is currently no screening test for ovarian cancer. Until there is a cure for this disease it is important to support and recognize the hard work that organizations are doing to raise awareness for this disease and its symptoms. I want to commend organizations like the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance, OCNA, for its commitment to ensuring that women are aware of the symptoms of ovarian cancer and for its advocacy on behalf of the women and families who have been touched by this devastating disease.

Early detection of ovarian cancer must be our focus and education and awareness are imperative. Studies have shown that if ovarian cancer is treated before it has spread outside the ovary, the 5-year survival rate is 93 percent. However, only 19 percent of ovarian cancers are found at such an early stage.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing September as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and to work to increase awareness about this deadly disease.

#### INTRODUCING THE IRAQI REFUGEE AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, RESETTLEMENT AND SECURITY ACT OF 2007

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 26, 2007*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a vital piece of legislation to raise awareness of the impending humanitarian crisis and security breakdown as a result of the mass influx of Iraqi refugees into neighboring countries, and the growing internally displaced population in Iraq.

Our legislation addresses this issue by increasing directed accountable assistance to these populations and their host countries, increasing border security, facilitating the resettlement of Iraqis at risk and broadening domestic relocation assistance.

Madam Speaker, whether you agree or disagree with U.S. policy in Iraq, one thing is crystal clear, we have a humanitarian crisis manifesting in the region that cannot be ignored.

Let's examine the facts. Iraqis are now the third-largest displaced population in the world and the fastest-growing refugee population globally. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR, estimates that there are some 2.2 million Iraqis displaced internally and at least another 2 million Iraqis have sought refuge in neighboring countries.

Many of these Iraqi refugees and internally displaced persons lack adequate food, shelter and other basic services. Further, the massive flow of refugees into neighboring countries is straining the social, economic, and security fabric of the host nations and threatens to destabilize the entire Middle East region.

My own efforts to address this looming calamity began in August when I wrote to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice highlighting the need for the United States to address this devastating situation with strong financial support, either through bilateral assistance or funding for international organizations that are working directly with the refugee and internally displaced populations.

In response to my letter, on September 7, 2007, I, along with Helsinki Commission Co-chairman Senator BENJAMIN L. CARDIN (D-MD) and Helsinki Commissioner Congressman JOSEPH R. PITTS (R-PA), received a briefing by Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration, PRM, Ellen Sauerbrey, who had recently returned from the region.

It was clear from our discussion that while the United States has been working to address this grave situation, not nearly enough is being done. The United States has a moral obligation to make a serious commitment to help Iraqi refugees and internally displaced populations while meeting our commitment to resettle Iraqi refugees referred by the UNHCR.

It is precisely for these reasons that I decided to take swift action and address this worsening crisis with comprehensive legislation.

Among the legislation's highlights are an authorization of \$700 million for each fiscal year